

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00

OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-05 ISO-00

(ISO) W

----- 064960

R 301527Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5026

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13949

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, NATO, CZ, GE, UR

SUBJ: GROMYKO IN PRAGUE AND BERLIN

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REF: A. MOSCOW 13884; B. MOSCOW 13670

1. THE COMMUNIQUE RESULTING FROM GROMYKO'S VISITS TO PRAGUE AND BERLIN SEEM QUITE BLAND. THE PRAGUE COMMUNIQUE WAS NOTEWORTHY ONLY FOR ITS MENTION OF MBFR (REF A), AND ITS IMPLICIT AGREEMENT THAT CZECH-SOVIET INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL COOPERATION SHOULD PROCEED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WARSAW PACT. IN THE BERLIN COMMUNIQUE WE SENSE SOME OF THE EAST GERMAN INTEREST IN CLOSER FOREIGN POLICY COORDINATION (I.E., THE SOVIETS SHOULD NOT IGNORE GDR INTERESTS) WHICH WAS ALREADY APPARENT IN FISCHER'S SPEECH IN MOSCOW AT THE TIME OF HIS LAST VISIT.

2. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS MORE TO THESE MEETINGS THAN MEETS THE EYE. FOR EXAMPLE, MBFR GOT PROMINENT PLAY IN PRAGUE, BUT NOT EVEN AN INDIRECT MENTION IN BERLIN. ARE THE EAST GERMANS AND THE SOVIETS PERHAPS AT ODDS ON HOW TO REPLY TO A NEW NATO INITIATIVE IN THOSE TALKS? GDR CHIEF OF STAFF HOFFMAN ARRIVED IN MOSCOW ON SEPT 29 FOR TALKS WITH GRECHKO AND, THOUGH THE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THEIR MEETING GIVES LITTLE AWAY ON SUBSTANCE OF THEIR TALKS, IT DOES MENTION THAT THE TWO DISCUSSED "INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST". SURELY MBFR WAS A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION, IF NOT DISPUTE.

3. WE ALSO NOTE, FOR THE RECORD, THAT IN BERLIN (BUT NOT PRAGUE) GROMYKO REPEATED THE ASSERTION IN HIS UN SPEECH (REF B) THAT AT THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS THE SOVIET UNION'S "PRINCIPLED FOREIGN POLICY" WILL RECEIVE "CONFIRMATION AND DEVELOPMENT." STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONAL OPINION, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW13949
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750339-0889
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975091/aaaaaaqi.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MOSCOW 13884, 75 MOSCOW 13670
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 SEP 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GROMYKO IN PRAGUE AND BERLIN CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, PARM, CZ, GC, UR, NATO, (GROMYKO, ANDREY ANDREYEVICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006